

Alden Kindred Gather for 100th Meeting

It's a reunion like no other. Hundreds of descendants of the Alden family will gather in Duxbury next week to celebrate their 100th annual meeting.

The Alden House Museum hosts the Alden Kindred of America Annual Meeting on Saturday, August 5, at 10 am.

The meeting has been held mostly in Duxbury over the years, brings together Alden Kindred members, guests, and friends from all over the country and the globe. Three hundred people are expected to attend the five-day celebration, beginning Wednesday, August 3 and ending with a brunch on Sunday, Aug. 6.

"Unlike in the past the em-

phasis will be on the entire Pilgrim history, not just Priscilla and John Alden's legacy," according to Charles Coombs, director of the Alden House.

The week-long activities include a boat trip to Provincetown to travel the last leg of the *Mayflower* to Plymouth Harbor. Peter Alden, ornithologist, will narrate the trip. A special talk by Rev. Professor Peter Gomes will be held on Thursday, Aug. 4, in the First Parish Church at 8 pm. Admission to the address is \$10. Reserve a seat at 934-9092. The Saturday's annual meeting cost is \$45 for adults and \$25 for children. Fee includes a catered

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luncheon.

The first meeting of the descendants of John and Priscilla Alden was held September 11, 1901 at Highland Park, Avon, Massachusetts.

Miss A. Ella Alden of Middleboro, a descendant of three Alden lines, had researched the family genealogy for many years and envisioned an organization of the Alden "cousins."

At the meeting, the organization to be called "The Alden Kindred" was officially begun, with George Alden of Brockton chosen as the first president and Mrs. A.H. (Mary) Sweet of Norton the first secretary. A decision was also made to hold annual reunions, the second one to be held at the Alden homestead in Duxbury.

The early reunions, usually held in Duxbury, were elaborate affairs with as many as 500 in attendance. On the appointed day, special trains left Boston early in the morning, stopping at each town along the way to pick up more Alden descendants and those "adopted for the day." Late in the afternoon the tired participants boarded again for the return trip to Boston.

Through the years the pro-

grams have become less formal — there have been no orchestras or long original epic poems set to music recently. Some elements remain the same. These are the recognition of new members, the chaplain's list of those who have died, a count of descendants present from each line, and recognition of the person having traveled farthest and the oldest and youngest descendants present.